

CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY
INFORMATION REPORT

REPORT

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COUNTRY East Germany

DATE DISTR. 24 March 1955

SUBJECT Personnel Changes at
VEB Karmowwerft Karmansende

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1. On 24 October 1954 [redacted] a shipbuilding meeting held at the Pressehaus in East Berlin [redacted] it was rumored that the management of VEB Warnowwerft Warnemuende would soon be reshuffled. 25X
2. Rudi Geist, manager of VEB Warnowwerft Warnemuende, read a paper on "assembly Line Production in the Shipbuilding Field". 1 He declared that this method had been successfully applied by the Soviet shipbuilding industry and that it was going to be adopted by the Poles also. The assembly line method of construction, he declared, would make possible a considerable acceleration of the building operations.
3. Geist was a [redacted] feared man at the Warnowwerft and known to be a fervent adherent of the Socialist Unity Party (SED). In the discussion, which followed his lecture, Geist was vehemently attacked by old shipbuilders, who explained that during the war, and especially in the submarine building field, Germany had reached a much higher degree of perfection, and that development in the USA also was superior at the time the Liberty-type ships were built.

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4. During the meeting, it was already rumored that Geist would have to withdraw from his post as manager of the Warnowwerft. As early as 4 November 1954, RIAS broadcast a report on the reshuffle. On that day, it was learned [redacted] that Geist would be given a political lecturer's chair at the University of Rostock. Friedrich Tops, ² was appointed manager of the Warnowwerft. Professor Franz [redacted], who up to that time held a professorship for naval architecture at the Rostock University, was appointed head of the design department of the shipyard. In 1954, Franz was in Communist China trying to get an order for the design of 15,000-ton ore carrier, which would be built in Warnemuende. The negotiations on this project were still going on at the time.

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Comment. Geist was managing engineer of VFB Warnowwerft, Warnemünde.
Erich Dru was chief manager of the yard.

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